

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Infrastructure Investment Complementing New Housing in Newton

Nearly \$400,000 in MassWorks funding will support extension of the Upper Falls Greenway Trail and improvements to Pettee Square

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

2/20/2020

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

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NEWTON UPPER FALLS — Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy joined Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, local leaders and private partners to announce a \$396,500 MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program award to the City of Newton for design and engineering work in the Upper Falls and Needham Street neighborhoods. This funding will jumpstart an extension of the Upper Falls Greenway Trail and support improvements to Pettee Square.

“The MassWorks program allows our administration to make targeted investments in public infrastructure that stimulates significant private funding toward new housing production, commercial development, and job creation,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “We are pleased to support these two important projects in the City of Newton, and this important effort furthers our work together with municipal partners across the state to address the housing crisis.”

“As former municipal leaders, Governor Baker and I know firsthand the value of flexible grant programs like MassWorks, which helps communities like Newton make targeted enhancements that contribute to both community and economic development,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “Today’s award will lead to important upgrades and provide enhanced safety and ease of travel for all who live and work in these neighborhoods.”

“Our administration is proud to support projects that are shovel-ready and high-impact through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, and these two projects in Newton will transform how people get around and make connections in this area of the city,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy.** “We are eager to see the private developments near our state investments move forward and provide the critically needed new housing residents and the economy need, as well as new commercial and retail opportunities for those who live and work in the area.”

This project will help to ensure residents, employees and visitors can live, work, move around, and play in a safer, more accessible, and more inviting way in the Upper Falls and Needham Street neighborhoods. These funds will improve safety, conditions, sustainability and vitality in the Pettee Square commercial district, and allow pedestrians and cyclists better access to the MBTA and Needham Street by

extending the Upper Falls Greenway Trail. These two MassWorks projects are also adjacent and complementary to the \$30 million MassDOT Needham Street / Highland Avenue Complete Streets upgrades scheduled to begin this spring.

The MassWorks project also complements and will provide enhanced pedestrian access to a site that has been proposed for redevelopment into a mixed-use development with 800 units of housing (including 120 affordable and 20 middle-income apartment units), 180,000 square feet of commercial space, and 115,000 square feet of retail. The private project also promotes multi-modal transportation through an electric shuttle available free to the public seven days a week, sixteen hours a day.

“I’m grateful that with the Governor’s help we can begin the design and engineering of two important transportation and neighborhood improvement projects in Newton Upper Falls,” **said Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.**

“These are two wonderful projects to extend and improve the Upper Falls Greenway and the Upper Falls neighborhood,” **said Jerry Reilly, Newton Upper Falls resident and advocate.** “As with the original creation of the Greenway, it’s the City and the State working together to make lasting improvements to Upper Falls. I love to see that.”

During the most recent competitive MassWorks round, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded more than \$72 million in MassWorks awards to a diverse mix of 36 projects in 35 communities across the Commonwealth, including nine Gateway Cities and eight communities receiving MassWorks funding for the first time. The awards will unlock a total of \$2.3 billion in private investment and more than 4,600 new full-time jobs, along with more than 3,100 new housing units, more than a third of which are affordable, building on the Administration’s efforts to tackle the ongoing housing shortage through complementary programs like [historic funding for affordable housing](#)

(https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us20.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3Dd76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097-26id-3De403019f5d-26e-3D83a1c) the proposed [Housing Choice legislation](#)

(https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us20.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3Dd76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097-26id-3Dfe8a834b00-26e-3D83a1c) The transformative projects funded by the 2019 awards were selected from 92 applications, totaling \$223 million in requests.

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$456 million in MassWorks grants to support 219 shovel-ready projects in 141 communities. MassWorks funding has leveraged over \$9.2B in private investments and made possible the creation of more than 14,000 new housing units and tens of thousands of construction and permanent jobs.

Governor Baker signed economic development legislation in August 2018 that included substantial new funding for municipalities, including another \$250 million for MassWorks awards. The legislation built on the Baker-Polito Administration’s work to partner with communities to catalyze economic development and create new opportunities for residents across the Commonwealth, including the [2016 Job Creation and Workforce Development Act](#)

(https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us20.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3Dd76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097-26id-3D2fd539ee60-26e-3D83a1c) which authorized \$1 billion to support economic development efforts across the state, including a \$500 million authorization for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, enhanced tools and the introduction of new strategies for job-readiness efforts.

Learn more about MassWorks [here](#)

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